

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/782,335

Examiner

Andrea M. Valenti

Applicant(s)

WATERS, S. COLLAR

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 15 April 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gary D. Clapp on 20 June 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 5, " a reservoir having an open top to facilitate filling thereof;" was changed to -- a reservoir having an open top to facilitate filling thereof and a bottom wall;--

Claim 1, lines 6-7, "a drainage channel within and communicating with the reservoir and having an inlet located adjacent the open top of the reservoir to facilitate drainage of excess fluid from the reservoir;" was deleted and replaced with --a drainage channel within and communicating with the reservoir having an inlet located adjacent and spaced from the open top of the reservoir and a drainage outlet located adjacent the bottom wall of the reservoir to facilitate drainage of excess fluid from the reservoir into a reservoir of an adjacent lower stackable unit;--

Claim 11, line 5, " a reservoir having an open top to facilitate filling thereof;" was changed to -- a reservoir having an open top to facilitate filling thereof and a bottom wall;--

Claim 11, lines 6-7, "a drainage channel within and communicating with the reservoir and having an inlet located adjacent the open top of the reservoir to facilitate drainage of excess fluid from the reservoir;" was deleted and replaced with --a drainage channel within and communicating with the reservoir having an inlet located adjacent and spaced from the open top of the reservoir and a drainage outlet located adjacent the bottom wall of the reservoir to facilitate drainage of excess fluid from the reservoir;--

Claim 14, line 5, " a reservoir having an open top to facilitate filling thereof;" was changed to -- a reservoir having an open top to facilitate filling thereof and a bottom wall;--

Claim 14, lines 6-7, "a drainage channel within and communicating with the reservoir and having an inlet located adjacent the open top of the reservoir to facilitate drainage of excess fluid from the reservoir;" was deleted and replaced with --a drainage channel within and communicating with the reservoir having an inlet located adjacent and spaced from the open top of the reservoir and a drainage outlet located adjacent the bottom wall of the reservoir to facilitate drainage of excess fluid from the reservoir into a reservoir of an adjacent lower stackable unit;--

Claim 20, line 6, " a reservoir having an open top to facilitate filling thereof;" was changed to -- a reservoir having an open top to facilitate filling thereof and a bottom wall;--

Claim 20, lines 7-9, "a drainage channel within and communicating with the reservoir and having an inlet located adjacent the open top of the reservoir to facilitate drainage of excess fluid from the reservoir;" was deleted and replaced with --a drainage

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channel within and communicating with the reservoir having an inlet located adjacent and spaced from the open top of the reservoir and a drainage outlet located adjacent the bottom wall of the reservoir to facilitate drainage of excess fluid from the reservoir;--

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea M. Valenti whose telephone number is 571-272-6895. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am-5:30pm M-Th.

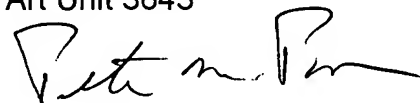
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter M. Poon can be reached on 571-272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

20 June 2005



Andrea M. Valenti
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3643



Peter M. Poon
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600